

NSC BRIEFING

25X1 7 February 1957

NAVY review(s) completed.

PRESENT SUEZ ISSUES

I. Canal clearance continues unimpeded: Navy says limited transit (25 feet draft or less) possible even now: unlimited transit expected early March.

A. No change in Nasr's tough position on Egyptian control and operation of canal.

II. USSR continues to encourage Nasr to stand firm.

A. Soviet ships ready to be among first to transit reopened canal, probably with propaganda fanfare. First two may arrive Suez this weekend. Sovs on 19 Jan also approved Egypt's latest military aid requirements.

III. Likelihood reopening of canal in immediate future, plus continued

Egyptian toughness possibility head-on collision between Nasr and Western users.

A. Time running out for maneuver, face-saving by either side.

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